



Circuit Rider

July 2023

www.lakestreetumc.org

A Universal Language

Pastor Jerry

In Genesis 11, we read the story of the Tower of Babel, in which all nations on earth share a common language and set out to build for themselves a great tower that reaches to the skies. God, seeing that once again humanity is setting out to make themselves like gods, frustrates their plans by confusing their tongues. People begin speaking different languages and soon sort themselves into separate language groups, each one suspicious of every other one. Being thus divided, their grand plan to rival the gods falls apart.

There is no doubt that the proliferation of human languages has been a source of division, but I have to admit I'm not sure God had to go to such extremes. For my part, I have complete confidence in human beings' ability to misunderstand each other even in the same language. For instance, our current American political tribes all speak English, but are still able to engage in long political arguments without either side understanding what the other is saying. This is partly because such words and phrases as "woke" and "Christian Nationalism" bear almost opposite meanings to the different sides, but it's mostly because neither side can be bothered to listen. And it isn't just political groups. There are communication gaps between men and women, between different generations, between urban and rural residents, between ethnic groups, and between income levels. Even within the shared parameters of the English tongue, we appear to be speaking a Babel's worth of different languages.

But I think there is a language that everyone speaks and everyone listens to. There is one way that we can use our shared speech that everyone immediately pays attention to and appreciates: storytelling. Maybe you've noticed this. A politician gives a stump speech, or a preacher gives a sermon, and both are likely to be filled with stock phrases and obscure arguments. As a result, in both cases the mind wanders after about, say, 45 seconds. But let that politician or preacher start telling a story, and suddenly everyone is listening. Moreover, this human attunement to stories starts almost immediately and never goes away. Two-year-olds are as drawn to stories as ninety-year-olds. Surly teenagers who have long since learned to tune out parental lectures still hear stories. Alzheimer's patients who no longer respond to questions still sit up and focus on you when you tell a story. Storytelling is as close as anything I can think of to a universal language.

There are surely many reasons for this. Let me just mention two. First, storytelling is how human beings find meaning within the random experiences of our lives. Think about it. Our days are filled with stimuli from thousands of different directions all the time, but when we come home and tell our spouse about something that happened at work, we are unconsciously (1) deciding which event that took place is worth telling and (2) which details of our day are a part of that event and which ones are not. Every told story is a carefully curated account of experience related to convey a point. Human beings are hard-wired to look for meaning; stories are our primary vehicle for that search.

(Continued on page 3)

**"CHRIST
FOLLOWERS
LIVING GOD'S
LOVE"**

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**9:00 AM
WORSHIP**
IN-PERSON,
BY RADIO (WMEQ
92.1), AND ON
FACEBOOK AND
YOUTUBE

STAY CONNECTED
THROUGH OUR
WEEKLY **LAKE
STREET
CONNECTIONS**
NEWSLETTER SENT
OUT VIA EMAIL AND
FACEBOOK EVERY
THURSDAY
AFTERNOON.

VISIT
**LAKESTREETUMC.
ORG** TO SIGN UP
OR SEND AN EMAIL
TO
COMMUNICATIONS
**@LAKESTREETUMC
.ORG**

*LAKE STREET UMC IS
ONE OF THE UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCHES OF
CHIPPEWA VALLEY:
ALTOONA, ANSON,
AUGUSTA, BLOOMER,
CADOTT, CHAPEL
HEIGHTS, HALLIE,
HOLCOMBE, HOPE,
JIM FALLS, LAKE
STREET, NEW
AUBURN, PLEASANT
VALLEY, STANLEY,
THORP, TRINITY, &
ZION.*



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Custodian

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Brost, Jesse Schwingle,
Per Forsberg, Greg
Wallace**
Worship Technology

Volunteers

Many Gifted Laity

OFFICE HOURS

Monday and Wednesday
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

A COMMUNITY OF WORSHIP

We seek to be a community of expectant, God-centered worship, through word and sacrament and God's gift of music – offering together our utmost for God's highest.

LUKE'S GOOD NEWS: Telling the Story of Christ through Luke's Eyes

Saturday-Sunday, July 1-2 *

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street
Facebook page

Traditional worship with Communion*: 9:00am. Radio 92.1 FM,
Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Message: "Signs and Wonders"

Scripture: Luke 7-9

Saturday-Sunday, July 8-9

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street
Facebook page

Traditional worship: 9:00am. Radio 92.1 FM, Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube.

Sermon: "The Storyteller" (part 1)

Scripture: Luke 10-12

Saturday-Sunday, July 15-16; Rev. Bill Beaton preaching

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street
Facebook page

Traditional worship: 9:00am. Radio 92.1 FM, Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube.

Sermon: "Are There Weeds in Your Garden"

Scripture: Matthew 13:40-43

Saturday-Sunday, July 22-23

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street
Facebook page

Traditional worship: 9:00am. Radio 92.1 FM, Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube.

Sermon: "The Storyteller" (part 2)

Scripture: Luke 13-16

Saturday-Sunday, July 29-30, Fifth Sunday Together

Living Room Worship: Available @ 6:00pm Saturday, Lake Street
Facebook page

Traditional worship: 9:00am. Radio 92.1 FM, Livestreamed on
Facebook and YouTube.

Sermon: Report from 50 years in the Democratic Republic of the
Congo

*Communion is served on the first Sunday of the month. United Methodists serve Open Communion, welcoming all to join Christ's table, because that's what he did, too.

(Continued from page 1)

A second reason we key in on stories is that good stories do not dictate their meaning to listeners but rather invite them to find the meaning themselves. Yes, it's true that some stories are purely didactic, obviously designed to teach one lesson and only one. These are boring stories. Mark Twain called them "Sunday School book stories," and no one ever reads them on purpose. No, good stories invite us to join them in their meaning-making.

This is why so much of our Bible consists of stories (and why such a relatively small amount consists of essays and sermons). The Bible, like God, is not interested in teaching us exactly what to believe so much as engaging us in our own search for faith. This is why the heart of our faith, the gospel of Jesus Christ, is not a list of rules but a story. And this is also why we have four very different versions of that story in our scripture – versions that sometimes even contradict each other. Because every storyteller shades their story with a slightly different meaning, inviting a slightly different quest from each hearer.

And this is why we are spending basically the whole summer simply telling one of those gospel versions – not telling you what it *means*, but just telling you the story and inviting you along with Luke into a search for what the life and death of Jesus Christ can mean for you. Stories don't dictate truth, but they do open promising doors to those who are seeking it. Come seek it this summer as we hear Luke's good news.

Worship Updates

Summer Choir. Our occasional Summer Choir - which is meeting on random Sundays over the hiatus of summer - will be singing this month on **July 2** and **July 9**. If you like singing at all, even if your schedule won't permit you to make a regular, weekly choir commitment, this is your chance. Come to church at **8:30** on Sunday morning to run over the song that you'll be singing in 45 minutes in worship.

Fifth Sunday in the Congo. We have established a pattern of trying out new ideas on 5th Sundays. This month, on **July 30**, you are invited to a special worship service featuring Donovan and Naomi Unruh. Donovan and Naomi spent most of their lives in the nation that was called Belgian Congo when they first arrived and is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They worked as evangelists, church planters, medical missionaries, and whatever else they needed to be when the need arose. Come join us for worship that Sunday, followed by a potluck brunch that will feature a slide presentation and a time for Questions and Answers.

RADIO SERVICE SUPPORT

\$165/week

☐ July 2

☐ July 16

☐ July 30

☐ July 9

☐ July 23

☐ August 6

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Recognition of: _____

HAVE YOU FOUND US ONLINE?

Our website **www.lakestreetumc.org** always has the most up to date calendar, news, online giving and more. Visit it often for past sermon recordings, past Circuit Riders, and a direct link to our Facebook page.



ADDRESS CHANGES

If you have had an address change within the past four months and are receiving the **Circuit Rider** newsletter electronically, please send your new address to the church office: **adminsec@lakestreetumc.org**.

Because your issue does not go to the post office, there is no Address Service Requested changes that come back to the church. We appreciate your help to keep our database up to date.

August Circuit Rider

Deadline is
Wednesday, July 19 for
Thursday, July 27
mailing

Be sure to send your news to Ellen Prellwitz at
Adminsec
[@lakestreetumc.org](mailto:adminsec@lakestreetumc.org)



A COMMUNITY OF INCLUSIVE WELCOME

We embrace all of God's children as persons of sacred worth regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status, national origin, culture, tradition, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other difference real or perceived, and welcome all people into the life of this congregation.

Lake Street Welcoming Ministry Flashback, by Pastor Jerry

According to "This Just In: A History of Broadcasting in the Chippewa Valley" (Volume One, 28 March 1922), by Luc Anthony, the first radio station in the area began in Osseo, but moved to Eau Claire in 1926. It broadcast from the Gillette Rubber Company with the call letters WTAQ (which stood for "Where Tires Are Quality"). It's interesting to speculate on the impact of this new media on the town. No one would have had a radio before there was a radio station, obviously, so in order to survive, the new station would have first had to persuade everyone to buy radios, only then could they persuade advertisers to buy ads. They couldn't make it forever on rubber company funding. So there must have been quite a push to encourage people to invest in this newfangled gadget.

And how should a church respond to a new form of communication being introduced to their community? Buy ads? Consider starting a radio worship broadcast? Or do something bizarre like writing the newspaper claiming to be better than a radio station already? I don't know. Let's go with door number three.

LSMC ROADCASTING

To the Editor:

Please print the following for those whom it might help. Thank you!

This broadcasting station, LSMC, new to many perhaps, has an interesting and valuable program every Sunday morning at 10:45 and at 7:30 Sunday evening. This station does not necessitate the people investing in a radio, but they must come direct to the station which is, the Lake Street Methodist church. No static in the air to keep you from hearing distinctly.

This wonderful program is tuned in harmony with the Kingdom of Heaven. The public is cordially invited to "listen in" and hear these wonderful programs at the station LSMC, Corner Lake Street and Fourth Avenue.

ONE WHO LISTENS IN.

The clipping to the left is from the September 15, 1926, edition of the *Eau Claire Leader*. Our own Kathy Anderson ran across it while doing family research and shared it with me. It is, sadly, unsigned, but the message is clear: "Don't spend your money on a radio! Just come to church! Two programs every Sunday!" I wonder how that worked.

Fascinated, Kathy kept digging. A week later, on September 23, "One Who Listens In" provided a follow-up letter (right), adding the helpful addendum that LSMC is better (or at any rate cheaper) than life insurance, too.

Okay, maybe not bizarre. In some ways, it's sort of creative. At least the author was making an effort to respond to

changes in society. Eventually, of course, Lake Street jumped on the bandwagon and started using the new media that "One Who Listens In" sniffed at, for which we are grateful. For now, though, just one word from your pastor: "You don't need Apple Goggles! Just come to Church!"

**BROADCASTING STATION
L. S. M. C. ON AIR SUNDAY**

If one was to obtain free insurance, by going to a certain office or place how eager we would be to get there.

At this broadcasting station I. M. C. insurance is not given away but assurance of a home in heaven.

Each person, going to this station may act as a radio giving this wonderful program to the world.

Don't forget the time, Sunday 10:45 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Station L. S. M. C., Lake Street Methodist Church, Corner Lake Street and Fourth Ave.

ONE WHO LISTENS IN

Garden Clean-Up Day at Church

July 12, beginning 4:00pm

Part of our welcome to guests and neighbors is the attractiveness of our external gardens. Bonnie Wright and Linda Keepers (with their assistants) maintain the front garden beautifully, but the weeding and trimming of the rest of our church's exterior is the job of the rest of us. Come join us for an evening together, making ourselves presentable and inviting. We will start at 4:00pm, but this is a come-and-go evening. And, just like on Sunday mornings, come as you are. You'll be welcome.

A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSIONATE OUTREACH

Our time and talents and resources are not gifts for our enjoyment but a calling to serve others, particularly the marginalized and those without other defenders.

We seek to serve God by serving God's children in our community, our nation, and our world.

Mission Team Report

Community Table: LSUMC members prepared and served a wonderful meal of chicken/vegetable stir fry, rice, and fruit salad for dozens of Eau Claire citizens at the Community Table on June 14. Thank you to Kathy and Kirsten Gierhart, Peter Nelson, Toni Kruse, Sue Glenz, Al and Jill Weisenbeck, Glen and Val Bryson, Pastor Jerry, confirmation candidate Molly Scholl (and a friend that she brought along named Sydney), and Tom and Evelyn Stanford. Volunteering at the C.T. is as much a social event as it is a terrific volunteer activity. We'd love to see some new faces. Contact Tom Stanford, tstrider73@gmail.com. (For a photo, see page 6.)

Backpacks for Unhoused People: In addition to our monthly date serving a meal at the Community Table, our Mission Team this year committed to buying and filling 25 backpacks with hygiene and other essential items that will be distributed by Community table. This month the team put those backpacks together and delivered them.



Blessing Box: This box of free hygiene and personal items that we have erected on Lake Street has become popular! It empties as fast as we can fill it. Items needed to stock the Blessing Box are cotton wash clothes, small jars of Vaseline, deodorant, bar soap, toothpaste and small first aid kits. All items can be purchased at the dollar store. They can be placed in the Blessing Box located in the gathering/coat rack area of the church.

Loose Change Offering: Our July loose change offering is designated for United to Beat Malaria (formerly "Nothing But Nets"). Malaria, a completely preventable and treatable disease, kills around 600,000 people every year, most of them children. Few projects can make so large a difference with just a few dollars: mosquito netting costs pennies.

Community Table

Our next dates to cook and serve at the Community Table are:

July 12 (9:00-2:00pm)
August 10 (9:00-2:00pm)
September 13 (9:00-2:00pm)

Volunteers may sign up for the whole time or for the first or second half. To volunteer, contact Tom Stanford at:
tstrider73@gmail.com



Beacon House Hosting

Our congregation hosts the evening meals at Beacon House this month, during the week of July 16 - 22.

If you can make a meal for unhoused families, contact Kent Gierhart at 715-864-2056.

ARCW Wish List for July: Fruit or Vegetable Juice

Consider supporting the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Food Pantry during July by donating canned or bottled fruit or vegetable juice to their Food Pantry located in downtown Eau Claire. Lake Street United Methodist Church supports this Food Pantry ministry by donating food and personal-hygiene products throughout the year. Please place your donated item in the AIDS Food Pantry box located near the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

The pantry clients were thrilled to receive the 90+ rolls of toilet tissue during May plus the additional food items. Your donations always are always graciously received and personnel thank you for your continued efforts!

BUY SCRIP THIS YEAR

For 2022 all Scrip earnings went to help those who are food insecure. That means we have providing over \$3000 to helping others in hard times.

As the New Year begins, think about making Scrip a part of your regular shopping. A percentage of your regular grocery or gas expense can be use to support the church and its ministries.

**Buy Scrip.
Support LSUMC**



A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

We seek to be a place where all God's children, of all ages and abilities, can grow together in knowledge and faith, through study, through participation in worship, and through service to others.

Confirmation Beginning this Fall

Confirmation in the United Methodist Church is a time for people of all ages, beginning at 6th grade, to explore the foundations of their faith: the Bible, our basic Christian doctrines, and our Methodist heritage. Then, confirmands are given a chance to *confirm* their baptism by publicly declaring their faith in Christ.

At Lake Street we add a bit to this process. Since being a Christian is more than just what we know or believe but how well we live it out, we also ask our confirmands to experience volunteering in the church and community (among other things). At the right is a picture of one of our confirmands, Molly Scholl, working at the Community Table in June. She even brought along a friend, Sydney.

If you have a child who is entering 6th grade this Fall, Confirmation begins in September. The process takes a while. With dedication, all our requirements can be completed in a year, but most people take two or three years to complete all their markers. If you don't receive a letter from Pastor Jerry in August, please contact him to let him know he missed you.

Men at Prayer: Thursdays @ 7:30am

A weekly time of praying together and studying scripture verse by verse, chapter by chapter.

Followed by "After-MAP"
at The Goat Coffee House on
Water Street.



Molly and Sydney serve fruit salads, lettuce salad, and cookies

FIRESIDE LIBRARY NEWS

New non-fiction books have been added to the library and currently are located on the hutch by the door. Enjoy!

Being Well with Chronic Illness by Kat Hill
Disciplines: Daily Devotions 2021 by Upper Room
Essential Christmas Prayers by Paraclete Press
Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved by Kate Bowler
I Bought a House on Gratitude Street by J. Ellsworth Kalas
Killing Jesus by Bill O'Reilly
Light We Carry by Michelle Obama
Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton
Norma Olson—A Life Well Lived: Stories Worth Sharing by Cheri Olson
Practicing Resurrection: Gospel of Mark by Janet Wolf

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

There will not be a UWF general meeting in July. Members are encouraged to check out a book for the reading program. There is a special UWF recognition given to

everyone who reads a book from one of each of the following categories by the end of the year: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Books are in the UWF book cart in the library and also at the Eau Claire Public Library. Two books written by our May speaker, Josephine Kilde, have also been added to the book cart. *Josephine* is a story of her life and *Seraphic Encounter, Questions God Asks, Adam and Eve* is a devotional book that explores why God asks questions.

Mission u 2023: Living The Good News, Reflecting God's Love

Join us at Mission u as we explore the good news and what it means for our lives!

Jesus' teachings in the Gospels proclaim the good news of the kin-dom or reign (*basileia*) of God. In fact, Jesus mentions the kin-dom 90 times in the Synoptic Gospels! What does the Bible tell us about God's *basileia* and why do we call it the kin-dom? For Jesus, the kin-dom was not simply something to talk about but something we could live and experience.

In-Person: July 13-15, 2023, Mauston UMC, 420 Suszycki Dr, Mauston, WI 53948

Address questions to Mission u Dean: Mary Lainberger—mlainberger@charter.net



STAMPERS

...will meet on the 4th Thursday
(i.e. **July 27th**) at **1:00 pm** in
Room 202.

We would love to have you join us.



July Birthdays

4th – Marilyn Sullivan

21st – Jeanette Wangen
(100 years)

24th – Carol Fawcett (94
years)

Happy Birthday



Jeanette Wangen's

100TH BIRTHDAY

SATURDAY JULY 29, 2023
OPEN HOUSE 1-3 PM

LAKE STREET METHODIST CHURCH
337 LAKE STREET EAU CLAIRE, WI

JEANETTE TURNS 100 YEARS YOUNG ON JULY 21!

Fund-Raising Opportunity for UWF

Wanted: *original* ink jet cartridges, new or used. Please gently wrap them (can use the container the new one came in) to avoid damage. A collection box will be placed in the Fellowship Hall along with a list of acceptable cartridges. The program is "Empties4Cash" if you would like more information.

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS

Our table for sharing our excess garden produce is set up in the Fellowship Hall. As tomatoes and cucumbers begin to appear in greater profusion than you can use or preserve, bring them by the church. In our church's commitment to inclusion, this is a new ministry to those members who suffer under the crippling disadvantages of not being able to keep plants alive (you know who you are).



Moreover, when the zucchini plants start to produce and, once again, you ask yourself why you planted so many, this year you don't have to resort to dropping them in unlocked cars or on doorsteps in the middle of the night. Bring them here. All vegetables are welcome.

GOT PETALS?

Such an imagination God has. Even early this growing season so many flowers are out in so many variations. Just think how they are alike yet different in color (lily of the valley vs daffodils), size (lilacs vs wood violets), or shape (forsythia vs dandelions). Would you share some of your flowers for all the congregation to enjoy? Just bring any variety of any petals any Sunday. Vases are here if needed. Well, maybe not the dandelions? Many of us already have a bounty of them.

Blessings – Pat Peterson



Pride, June 10

Thank you to all those who showed up at our table last month for the Eau Claire Pride Festival. Members of Lake Street were there to greet participants and to give them some information about our church. Many LGBTQ+ people have been hurt



or excluded by Christian churches, and many others who have no contact with the Church at all have lumped every Christian group together with those exclusive churches. We were at Pride to say, "Those churches don't speak for us. Everyone is welcome at Lake Street." Once again, thank you.

Memorials and Special Gifts received through June 19

MEMORIALS

In memory of Beverly Boettcher; Donors: Jan and Brad Smith; Designated for Radio Ministry;

In memory of Dorothy Elliott; Donors: Marshall Wick, Carroll and Sandra Vowels, Jon and Diane Case, Craig and Julie Blakeley, John and Bev Goetz, Robert and Janet Johnson, Dick and Linda Keepers, Helen and Larry Keith, Barb and Ed Kubes, Barbara McDermid, Peter Nygaard, Craig and Julie Blakeley; Undesignated; Donors: Ray and Mary Kay Francis, Jon and Julie Holzinger, Lloyd and Florence Shepherd; Designated for Radio Ministry; Donors: Chris and Frank Draxler; Designated for 3rd Grade bibles;

In Memory of Marty Fuller; Donors: Brenda and Greg Wallace, Jon and Julie Holzinger, Dick and Linda Keepers; Designated for Radio Ministry; Donors: Susie Deacon, Mary Zemple, Joseph and Priscilla Doninger, Carol Fawcett, Kent and Kathy Gierhart, Lloyd and Florence Shepherd, Judy Sheu, and Marshall Wick; Undesignated;

In Memory of Nancy Espie; Donors: Jan and Brad Smith, Carol Lamirande, BJ Keepers, Ellen Prellwitz; Designated for Radio Ministry;

Special Gifts: Donated anonymously and designated for Radio Ministry.

RESOURCES FOR MINISTRY

Financial Report through May, 2023

Through the long months of the Covid-19 lockdowns / partial re-openings / hurried lockdowns again one of the things we all wondered was “when will things get back to normal?” by which we meant, “back to the way things were before 2020.” Well, we aren’t there yet and in some ways will never be, but many things have begun to return to the familiar patterns.

One of those is our church financial situation, unfortunately. Before the pandemic, we were tracking a gradual, but steady, decline in giving and adjusting our budgets accordingly, but once the pandemic began, you upended all our projections by giving more than we had imagined. From 2020 through 2022, we consistently operated in the black, outperforming budget every year.

That was an incredible, generous statement of your support for the church in a time of crisis, and we are grateful. But now that the crisis mode is subsiding, our finances are back in more familiar territory. As of the end of May, we are \$30K in the red - very close to our budget projections, but short of our hopes. Thank you to you all for your continued faithful giving. Keep it up.

But there is good news. Much of our deficit this year comes from heavy spending on the building by our Trustees. This year, they front-loaded their projects, and most of their planned projects are complete. There will be less spending from that end. But even more than that, our cash reserves remain strong, and none of our ministry projects will have to be put on hold, because of the grant money that we have available for mission and outreach and service.



Lake Street United Methodist Church

	Operating Fund		Building Fund		Total	
	May 2023	Budget May 2023	May 2023	Budget May 2023	May 2023	Budget May 2023
Offerings and other income *	\$ 142,958	147,630	\$ 2,270	\$ 550	\$ 145,227	\$ 148,180
Expenses	127,020	137,931	47,946	\$ 41,847	174,966	179,778
Net of Offerings less expenses	\$ 15,937	\$ 9,699	\$ (45,676)	\$ (41,297)	\$ (29,739)	\$ (31,598)

* Excludes parsonage investment gain/loss because it is not included in budget

CONFERENCE AND COMMUNITY

Report from Wisconsin Annual Conference, 2023

On June 9-11, the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church held its annual meeting, at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay. Lake Street's representatives to that meeting were Pastor Jerry Morris, Pat Peterson, and Jan Smith.

Compared to some Annual Conferences in years past, this was a quiet and peaceful meeting. While this may have been mostly because the UMC is about to make its theological divisions permanent by breaking apart, thus making further argument pointless, it was nevertheless a welcome change. President Javier Viera of Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary led a powerful Bible Study during the mornings, and as always there was some great singing and worship.

The primary business of this year's AC was to make official the disaffiliation of 43 churches, who are leaving the UMC because of disagreement with the growing acceptance of LGBTQ+ ordination and same-sex marriage in United States Methodism. These congregations represent about 11% of the churches of the Wisconsin Conference, and a similar percentage of membership. They range from large churches, like the 1000-member Ashbury UMC in Madison, to tiny churches with membership in the single digits. The disaffiliations approved, we all prayed for each other as we agreed to go separate ways.

This will affect budgets and ministries going forward, but we won't know exactly how much for a while yet. Still, though, we are preparing. After 2024, the Wisconsin Conference will enter a relationship with the Northern Illinois conference – maintaining our distinct identities, but sharing one bishop and many resources. We will also drop down to only four District Superintendents (we currently have five districts), and are planning other cost-saving measures. Our 2024 conference budget is over half a million dollars less than this year's.

We also elected members to the 2024 General Conference, and heard from those who had attended the 2022 Jurisdictional Conference (a meeting of northern Midwestern Methodist conferences). That Jurisdictional Conference passed several resolutions to be presented at that 2024 meeting, primarily focused on increasing openness to LGBTQ+ individuals.

On the final day, the conference held the ritual of reading out this year's new clergy appointments. Each District Superintendent read aloud the name of the appointment, and Bishop Jung read the name of the person being appointed to that position. As Park Hunter, DS for the Northeast District, completed his list, he added, "We have had one more change of appointment in this district." Bishop Jung looked surprised. He didn't have any more names on *his* list. Park read in a solemn voice: "The Green Bay Packers." Bishop Jung (after some prompting) announced, "Jordan Love." So there you have it. Someone to thank or blame this fall: the Bishop and Cabinet.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *CIRCUIT RIDER* is a monthly news and information publication for members and friends of the Lake Street United Methodist Church.

EDITORS

Rev. Jerry Morris — Layout Editor
Ellen Prellwitz — Copy Production
Aaron Athas — Digital Production

DEADLINE

News items for the August issue (mailed on July 27) need to be received no later than **July 19**.

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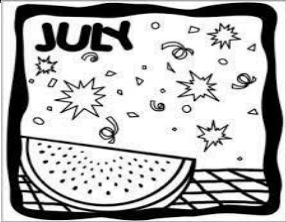




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(no email address)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
2 Mission Emphasis: Beat Malaria 8:30am Summer Choir Rehearsal (Room 202) 9:00am Worship with Communion (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Radio Ministry (92.1) <i>Sermon: "Signs and Wonders";</i> <i>Texts: Luke 7-9;</i> 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry (Dockside)	3 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Class) 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conference Room)	4 Independence Day Holiday -- Office Closed	5 9:30am UWF Exec Comm (Room 202) 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Class) 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)	6 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A) 6:00pm IM Church Core Team Mtg (Fellowship Hall)	7 10:00am Funeral Visitation 11:00am Celebration of Life for Winnie Joos with fellowship following 6:00pm Hispanic Ministry Prayer/Worship (Dockside Room)	1 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
9 Mission Emphasis: Beat Malaria 8:30am Summer Choir Rehearsal (Room 202) 9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Radio Ministry (92.1) <i>Sermon: "The Storyteller" (part1)'</i> <i>Texts: Luke 10-12;</i> 10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall) 1:00pm Hispanic Ministry (Dockside)	10 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Class) 10:00am Staff Meeting (Conference Room) 3:00pm Staff Parish (Conference Room/on line) 6:00pm Welcome and Worship Team (Fellowship Hall/online)	11 6:00pm Communications Team (on line) 7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)	12 9:00am The Community Table 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Class) 4:00pm Garden Clean Up Day 6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)	13 7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library] 9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)	14 10:00am Drive-Up Food Pantry (located at 2610 Alpine Rd) 6:00pm Hispanic Ministry Prayer/Worship (Dockside Room)	8 8:00am Room 202 In Use (Amateur Radio Testing) 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
16 Mission Emphasis: Beat Malaria 9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Radio Ministry (92.1)	17 Parking Lot In Use by EC County Courthouse 10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC	18 Parking Lot In Use by EC County Courthouse 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting	19 Circuit Rider Deadline Parking Lot In Use by EC County Courthouse 9:00am Sanctuary Pew Cleaning	20 Parking Lot In Use by EC County Courthouse	21 Parking Lot In Use by EC County Courthouse 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting	15 10:00am Room 202 In Use (Huntington's Disease Support Group) 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook
						22 12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group) 5:00pm Beacon House Hosting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Sermon: "Are There Weeds in Your Garden?"; Text: Matthew 13:40-43; Rev. Bill Beaton, preaching;</i></p> <p>10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>1:00pm Hispanic Ministry (Dockside)</p> <p>3:00pm IM Church (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting</p>	<p>Brain and Body Class)</p> <p>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting</p>	<p>7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)</p>	<p>10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Class)</p> <p>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting</p> <p>6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)</p>	<p>7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library]</p> <p>9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)</p> <p>5:00pm Beacon House Hosting</p>	<p>6:00pm Hispanic Ministry Prayer/Worship (Dockside Room)</p>	<p>6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook</p>
<p>23 Mission Emphasis: Beat Malaria</p> <p>9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Radio Ministry (92.1)</p> <p><i>Sermon: "The Storyteller" (part 2); Texts: Luke 13-16</i></p> <p>10:00am Fellowship and Scrip (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>1:00pm Hispanic Ministry (Dockside)</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Parking Lot In Use by EC County Courthouse</p> <p>10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Class)</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting (Conference Room)</p> <p>6:00pm Church Council (Fellowship Hall/online)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Parking Lot In Use by EC County Courthouse</p> <p>7:00pm Hispanic Discipleship (Room 101)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Parking Lot In Use by EC County Courthouse</p> <p>9:00am Missions Team (Fireside Library)</p> <p>10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Class)</p> <p>1:30pm Room 202/Fireside Library In Use (Early Memory Loss Support Group)</p> <p>6:30pm NA (Fireside Library)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Parking Lot In Use by EC County Courthouse</p> <p>7:30am MAP (Men At Prayer) [Fireside Library]</p> <p>9:00am Quilters (Room 101A)</p> <p>9:30am Circuit Rider Assembly (Room 202)</p> <p>1:00pm Stampers (Room 202)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Parking Lot In Use by EC County Courthouse</p> <p>10:00am Drive-Up Food Pantry (located at 2610 Alpine Rd)</p> <p>6:00pm Hispanic Ministry Prayer/Worship (Dockside Room)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00am Fellowship Hall In Use for Decorating</p> <p>12:00pm Fireside Library In Use (NA Group)</p> <p>1:00pm 100th Birthday Celebration for Jeanette Wangen (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>6:00pm Living Room Worship on Facebook</p>
<p>30 Fifth Sunday Together</p> <p>Mission Emphasis: Beat Malaria</p> <p>9:00am Worship (sanctuary) with livestream on Facebook and YouTube; Radio Ministry (92.1)</p> <p><i>Message: "Report from 50 Years in the Democratic Republic of the Congo"</i></p> <p>10:00am Potluck Brunch and Scrip (Fellowship Hall)</p> <p>1:00pm Hispanic Ministry (Dockside)</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00am Fellowship Hall In Use (ARDC Brain and Body Class)</p> <p>10:00am Staff Meeting (Conference Room)</p>	